

WO009808314A1

Feb. 26, 1998

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING POSITION-RELATED INFORMATION TO MOBILE
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APPL NO: US 09712916
DATE FILED: Jul. 25, 1997
PRIOR-AP: US 69814896A Aug. 15, 1996
INT-CL: [6] H04B7/185; [6] H04L9/00
EUR-CL: H04Q7/38

ABSTRACT:

<CHG DATE=19980505 STATUS=O>A system for providing position-related information to a mobile user includes a mobile unit and a central site server. The mobile unit includes circuitry for determining present position information from position signals which may emanate from, for example, GPS satellites. The mobile unit further includes circuitry for establishing a wireless bidirectional communications link with the central site server via a terrestrial network, which may be accessed via a cellular telephone network. The central site server includes circuitry for receiving the present position information from the mobile unit. A table stored at the central site server includes different response information in correspondence with possible positions of the mobile unit. The response information may further be in correspondence with user preferences. The central site server uses the received present position information to retrieve corresponding response information from the table, and sends the retrieved response information to the mobile unit via the bidirectional communications link. The mobile unit further includes circuitry, such as a loudspeaker, for supplying the response information to the mobile user. In another aspect of the invention, communications between the mobile unit and the central site server are encrypted. Furthermore, the mobile unit may include components for preventing position information from being supplied to the loudspeaker, thereby eliminating distracting noise from being presented to the user.